

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

**1-13. (canceled).**

**14. (previously presented):** A positive planographic printing plate precursor comprising a hydrophilic support, and a lower layer and an image recording layer disposed on the hydrophilic support, wherein:

the lower layer includes a water-insoluble and alkali-soluble resin in an amount of 0.1 to 5.0 g/m<sup>2</sup>, and

the image recording layer includes a novolak type phenolic resin containing phenol and m-cresol as structural units, in which m-cresol is contained in an amount of 10% by mole or more of the total amount of the resin, and a light-to-heat conversion agent, and

the image recording layer exhibits increased solubility in an alkaline aqueous solution when exposed to an infrared laser,

wherein the image recording layer contains a water-insoluble and alkali-soluble resin other than the novolak type phenolic resins selected from the group consisting of a polyamide resin, an epoxy resin, an acetal resin, an acrylic resin, a methacrylic resin, a styrene based resin and a urethane resin.

**15. (previously presented):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein the novolak type phenolic resin contains phenol as a structural unit thereof in a range of from 20 to 90% by mole.

16. (previously presented): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein the novolak type phenolic resin is a resin obtained by condensing of phenol and a substituted phenol represented by the following general formula (I) with an aldehyde:



General formula (I)

wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or a halogen atom;  $R^3$  represents an alkyl group or cycloalkyl group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms.

17. (previously presented): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 16, wherein a phenol content in monomers constituting the resin obtained by condensing of phenol and a substituted phenol represented by general formula (I) with an aldehyde is in a range of from 21 to 90% by mole.

18. (previously presented): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein the novolak type phenolic resin further comprises xylenol as a structural unit thereof.

19. (previously presented): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein a phenol content in monomers constituting the novolak type phenolic resin is in a range of from 21 to 90% by mole.

**20. (previously presented):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein the image recording layer contains a novolak type phenolic resin other than the novolak type phenolic resin containing phenol as a structural unit thereof in an amount of from 5 to 50 % by weight based on a total solid content of all the phenolic type novolak resins.

**21. (previously presented):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein the image recording layer contains a onium salt.

**22. (previously presented):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein the water-insoluble and alkali-soluble resin included in the lower layer is selected from the group consisting of a polyamide resin, an epoxy resin, an acetal resin, an acrylic resin, a methacrylic resin, a styrene based resin and a urethane resin.

**23. (previously presented):** A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein the image recording layer includes the novolak type phenolic resin and the lower layer includes an acrylic resin.

**24. (canceled).**